

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1129 – SB 1266

March 12, 2014

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Authorizes teachers and administrators to use, read, or post excerpts from the United States Constitution in a public school classroom, building, or during an event. Requires each student to be taught the foundational instruments, mechanisms, and values of American government. Requires a course of such instruction to be taught in all public schools. Sets forth requirements for such courses that shall be used. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to report to the Commissioner of Education their compliance with the content of courses as set forth in this bill. Copies of their reports shall be retained in each school for access by parents and the public.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014196):** Adds language to the original bill prohibiting the Department of Education from approving any current, additional, or future funds necessary to implement new accountability assessments unless the funds are approved by the General Assembly in the General Appropriations Act. This prohibition shall not apply to the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent the General Assembly does not approve the Department of Education’s current or future state assessment funding plan, the assessment budget will be revised. It is assumed the General Assembly will appropriate adequate funding for any assessment plan it approves. Any change in funding will be dependent upon the actions of the General Assembly and cannot be quantified.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- No change in the overall amount of funding in the state budget.
- Budgeting for assessments will be done in the normal course of legislative hearings.

HB 1129 – SB 1266

- Any fiscal impact on state or local expenditures as a result of changing curriculum as it relates to the foundational instruments, mechanisms, and values of the American government and requiring such a course to be taught in all public schools is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/msg